

loyalty, kindness and sense of humour as well as the generous hospitality he and his wife liked to offer in their home.

On the whole, his health remained good and he was able to enjoy his well deserved retirement and to celebrate his golden wedding with his devoted wife, Peggy. His children, Stephania, Irene, Charles and their families were a source of great pleasure.

By them and by his friends, colleagues and patients he will be greatly missed.

M. E. MACKAY

Charles David Neal, formerly Consultant in Health Care of the Elderly (Psychiatry) Crewe Health Authority



David Neal was born in Nantwich on 30 June 1936, died at home in nearby Wrenbury Heath on 10 April 1994 and is buried in the soil of his beloved Cheshire. His mother died when he was young and he grew up

as an only child devoted to his father who was a skilled and respected cabinet-maker and antique dealer. There was little money but David enjoyed the richness of his father's enthusiasm and knowledge and rapidly demonstrated a wealth of talent of his own. From the local grammar school he entered the medical school of Birmingham University in 1953 where he qualified MRCS, LRCP, MB ChB (1959). Interest in psychiatry led him to work with Gilbert Hall, Michael Jefferson and the Professorial neurosurgical firm. A brief venture into general practice in Balsall Heath gave way to further studies in psychiatry from posts at Highcroft Hospital and help and influence from Professor Sir William Trethowan and Norman Imlah. In 1969 he was appointed consultant psychiatrist in general psychiatry at Shelton Hospital, Shrewsbury, where he served until 1978. Working with characteristic energy, vision and devotion, he was a much sought opinion by local GPs, often proving able to 'fathom' and resolve problems which had baffled others for months or years. He took leadership responsibility in planning and developing

services and joined others in research which led to important publications. His first marriage foundered and he moved for two years to St Lawrence's Hospital in Bodmin. Even there, in a brief and troubled sojourn, he contributed a great deal beyond the routine expectations of work.

In 1980 he returned to his roots to take on what should have been an impossible task. Within a few years he had transformed psychiatric services for the elderly in mid-Cheshire from hopelessness and despair to an example of good practice commended by the Health Advisory Service. Senior registrars from the Mersey Region and beyond were pleased to gain training and encouragement there. Other agencies involved with providing medical and welfare services for old people grew and blossomed. An epidemiologic study of dementia and depression among the elderly of Nantwich was accomplished.

David became a founder member and Chair of BASE South Cheshire and a member of the national executive of BASE, founder member and committee member of Age Concern Cheshire, Chair of the Visiting Panel to the Salvation Army Eventide Home, Member of Crewe C H C. During this time he was an active member and on the Executive Committee of the Old Age Section of the College, he examined in the Membership, was elected FRCPsych and MRCP (Edinburgh).

In 1988 he married Mary Harrison, a union which sustained him through these final years.

Changes in the health service, interpreted locally with vicious right-wing enthusiasm, all but destroyed the services he and Mary had created: old people suffering from multiple long-term illnesses were largely being denied their rights to free NHS care. His colleague Chris McWilliam moved to an academic post at Keele and was not replaced, David took retirement at the earliest opportunity and Mary resigned. There is little doubt that David's heart, though not his spirit, was broken.

He kept the vestige of the service going as his own (supposedly part-time) locum, served as a Mental Health Act Commissioner, studied for and obtained an MA in Medical Ethics at Keele, gave almost every other hour to the church as licensed Lay Reader, Organist and bell-ringer (until too short of breath).

Yet he still found time for his wife, their home, his workshop, garden, antiques, cats, children, grandchildren and many god-children and friends.

The heart condition which became evident even before his return to Cheshire progressed to leave him in heart failure which would have crippled lesser men. David remained active to the very last. This was how he wished it to be:

... serving the profession and community for as long as possible.

DAVID JOLLEY
ALAN SMITH

Miscellany

Dr Mark Aveline

Dr Mark Aveline has been elected President of the British Association for Counselling.

Know How Fund – Health Sector – Small Partnerships Scheme (Russia)

The Health Sector Small Partnerships Scheme for Russia has been established to support non-governmental UK links with the health sector in Russia. Currently, the Know How Fund is targeting focused support to the health sector in three Oblasts: Kemerovo, Samara and Sverdlovsk. The Health Sector Small Partnerships Scheme will cover the whole of Russia and is intended to provide opportunities for initiatives in the broadly defined health field which have as a primary objective the development of partnerships between UK non-governmental organisations and non-profit centres and Russian Health Sector partners, which will lead to continuing cooperation. The fund will total £250,000 per annum for the next two years (to mid-year 1996).

The Scheme is managed by the Charities Aid Foundation. Applications for the Scheme will be submitted to a Board which will have responsibility for project approval. For further information please contact Ms Christine Forrester, Co-ordinator, Charities Aid Foundation, 114/118 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5AA (telephone: 071 831 7798; fax 071 831 0134).

A national mental health charity for people of Asian origin

Manaseek, a registered national mental health charity, has been set up to provide mental health advice, particularly to people of Asian

origin living in the United Kingdom. The Manaseek Help Line telephone number is 0151 426 3121 and advice can be provided in all the major Indian languages.

Appeals for publications

Psychiatrists in Romania would be grateful to receive donations of back issues of *The British Journal of Psychiatry*. Would any Members of the College who are able to help, please contact Dr Carol Friedman, Tomis Nord, AL. HERACLEEA, No. 1, Block VI, App. 8, 8700 Constanta, Romania.

The Palestinian Institute of Mental Health would be grateful for any donations of publications related to mental health. These should be sent to: Dr Hekiyat, MAD (uk), 33A Blington Park Street, London N1 1QB (telephone 071 726 4114; fax 071 726 0880).

New publications

A report *Alcohol Policy and the Public Good* has been published by Oxford University Press in association with the World Health Organization (paperback £14.99).

The Mental Health Foundation has published an information sheet on older people and mental health. Single copies are available free from Charlotte Lloyd, Information Officer, Mental Health Foundation, 37 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8JU (telephone 071 580 0145).

The Manic Depression Fellowship has published a leaflet for young people with a parent with manic depression. Further information: The Manic Depression Fellowship, 8–10 High Street, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 1EY (telephone 081 974 6550; fax 081 974 6600).